UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/846
4 November 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH AND RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the French-Russian joint statement on Iraq that was issued following the meeting in Moscow on 1 November between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, Mr. Hubert Védrine, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Yevgeni Primakov.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alain DEJAMMET
Permanent Representative of
France to the United Nations

(Signed) Sergei LAVROV
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the
United Nations

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Annex

French-Russian joint statement on Iraq issued following the meeting in Moscow on 1 November 1997 between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of France and the Russian Federation

The decision of Iraq to limit its cooperation with the United Nations Special Commission violates the resolutions of the Security Council and is consequently unacceptable. Security Council resolutions are binding on all States and must be fully implemented.

The Security Council reacted immediately and unanimously to the decision of the Iraqi authorities with a statement by the President of the Council. Our countries emphasize the great importance they attach to the unity of the Council on this question.

France and the Russian Federation urgently call upon the Iraqi authorities to reverse this decision so that the Special Commission can continue to execute the mandate entrusted to it by Security Council resolution 687 (1991). This will send a clear message of a de-escalation of tension. The Iraqi authorities must in future refrain from any action incompatible with the resolutions of the Security Council.

France and the Russian Federation support the intention expressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send a special United Nations mission to Baghdad to urge Iraq to cooperate unconditionally with the Special Commission. Only full and effective cooperation with the Special Commission will permit the implementation of paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) on the ending of the oil embargo and enable Iraq to rejoin the international community.

The two parties state very firmly that in their view any new action concerning Iraq should be examined and undertaken strictly within the framework of the Security Council.